

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 ACDA-19 GAC-01 IO-12 SCI-06 SCEM-02

RSR-01 /163 W

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R 300845 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3810

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0410

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM FR AS MP

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PRIMIN DISCUSSES FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS WITH GOM

1. TRANSIT AUSTRALIAN PRIMIN WHITLAM AND PARTY THROUGH MAURITIUS
APRIL 28-29 TRANSFORMED INTO MINSTATE VISIT BY PRIMIN RAMGOOLAM.
IN ADDITION FULL HONORS ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AND STATE BANQUET,
TWO PRIMINS HAD WORKING SESSION DURING WHICH WHITLAM RAISED
QUESTION

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN PACIFIC AND SOLICITED GOM SUPPORT CURRENT
AUSTRALIAN EFFORTS AND THEM. ACCORDING AUSTRALIAN SOURCES, DR. RAM
RESPONDED MORE POSITIVELY THAN AUSTRALIANS HAD EXPECTED. HE TOLD
WHITLAM HE WAS PLANNING VISIT PARIS END MAY- EARLY JUNE. WHILE HE
DID NOT VOLUNTEER TO SPEAK TO FRENCH THEN, HE DID SAY HE WOULD CALL
IN FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE FOR TALK. ONLY OTHER ITEM BUSINESS WAS
WHITLAM'S UNPROMPTED OFFER TO RAMGOOLAM OF SEVERAL AUSTRALIAN
SCHOLARSHIPS IN FIELD TRADE MARKETING. DR. RAM DID NOT RESPOND.

2. WHITLAM PROTRAYED BY STAFF AS INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN THINK-
ING OF TACTICAL MOVES WHICH MIGHT HELP PUT PRESSURE ON FRENCH. HE
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REPORTEDLY COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT, IF TESTS AS SAFE AS FRENCH

PROFESS, " WHY DON' T THEY HOLD THEM OFF CORSICA?" HIS OWN OFF- CUFF SUGGESTION THAT HE MIGHT COMMUNICATE AUSTRALIAN CONCERN TO OCAM FONMINS NOW MEETING HERE WAS DISCOURAGED BY HIS STAFF, BUT IN INFORMAL DEPARTURE STATEMENT, HE DID SAY HE " WOULD BE DELIGHTED" IF PRIMIN RAMGOOLAM " MADE IT HIS BUSINESS TO CONVINCE CHIEFS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCOPHONE AFRICA TO WORK AGAINST THESE NUCLEAR TESTS."

3. WHITLAM ALSO TOLD PRESS AUSTRALIA " IMPLACABLY OPPOSED TO RACISM OF ANY KIND", AND WOULD DEAL NEITHER WITH RACIALLY SELECTED SPORTING TEAMS NOR " REBEL REGIME IN ZIMBABWE". HE AVOIDED DWELLING ON INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES BUT DID NOTE BOTH AUSTRALIA AND MAURITIUS INDIAN OCEAN " POWERS" AND MEMBERS COMMONWEALTH AND VOICED HIS GOVERNMENT' S SUPPORT FOR THIS OCEAN AS " ZONE OF NEUTRALITY".

4. COMMENT: WHILE RAMGOOLAM MADE PARTICULAR EFFORT PROPITIATE WHITLAM IT BY NO MEANS CERTAIN HE WILL PURSUE NUCLEAR TEST QUESTION WITH FRENCH IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY. FROM MAURITIAN VIEWPOINT, HOWEVER, BRIEF VISIT GAVE ADDED FILLIP THIS COUNTRY' S CURRENT EUPHORIC FEELING OF BEING ON WORLD STAGE DUE PRESENCE OCAM FONMINS AND ARRIVAL CHIEFS OF STATE BEGINNING AFTERNOON APRIL 30.
BREWER

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